



IDAHO POTATOES

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL STATISTICS SERVICE
United States Department of Agriculture • Washington, DC
Idaho Field Office • PO Box 1699 • Boise, Idaho 83701
1-800-691-9987 • www.usda.gov/nass/



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Media Contact: Bill Meyer, Tel # (208) 334-1507
nass-id@nass.usda.gov

IDAHO PRODUCTION DOWN 11 PERCENT

Idaho's potato production is expected to total 117 million cwt, down 11 percent from last year's 132 million cwt. This is Idaho's smallest production total since 1989. Planted acres of 325,000 and harvested acres of 323,000 are down 5,000 acres from previously set estimates and down 30,000 acres from 2004. This is the smallest potato acreage in Idaho since 1986. Statewide, yield is 362 cwt (field-run basis), down 12 cwt from last year's record high. Yield in the 10 Southwestern counties, at 465 cwt, is down 25 cwt from 2004. Total production in the area is down 20 percent from last year at 9.77 million cwt from 21,000 harvested acres. In Idaho's "other counties," yield is estimated at 355 cwt, compared to 365 cwt a year ago. Other area production from 302,000 harvested acres is expected to total 107 million cwt, 10 percent below last year's 120 million cwt.

Planting of Idaho's 2005 crop was delayed by spring rains in many areas. Harvest progress lagged behind last year and the five-year average for South-central and Eastern areas of the state.

UNITED STATES HIGHLIGHTS

Nationally, production of fall potatoes for 2005 is forecast at 382 million cwt, down 7 percent from a year ago. Area harvested, at 951,800 acres, is down 7 percent from last year. The average yield for the fall crop is estimated at a record high 402 cwt per acre, 1 cwt above the previous high set last year.

Western States production is forecast at 268 million cwt, down 5 percent from last year. Acreage harvested, at 600,900 acres, decreased 6 percent from last year but the average yield of 445 cwt per acre is up 7 cwt from 2004. Growing conditions throughout the Western States were generally favorable. Idaho's total potato forecast, at 117 million cwt, is 11 percent below last year and the lowest since 1989. Yield in Washington is forecast at 620 cwt per acre, 30 cwt above last year. If realized, this will be a record high yield exceeding the previous record established in 2000 by 20 cwt. Production, at 95.5 million cwt, is 2 percent above last year. Colorado's production is expected to decrease 6 percent from 2004 but yields are up 15 cwt per acre. A long growing season and adequate irrigation water allowed potatoes to size larger. Oregon's production is forecast to be up 9 percent due to the record high yield of 584 cwt per acre, 41 cwt above the previous record established in 2000.

Central States production is forecast at 90.1 million cwt, down 11 percent from last year. Harvested area, estimated at 260,400 acres, is down 9 percent, while average yields, at 346 cwt per acre, are down 9 cwt from a year ago. Michigan, with production up 5 percent from last year, is the only State in the Central Region where an increase in production is expected. The other 5 States, when compared with last season, expect decreases in production ranging from 5 percent in Wisconsin to 23 percent in North Dakota. North Dakota's production decrease is due, in part, to a 19 percent reduction in harvested acres. Flooding in the major potato producing region caused growers to abandon more acreage than normal. Minnesota production is forecast 8 percent below last year.

Eastern States production is forecast at 24.5 million cwt, down 12 percent from last year. Area for harvest totaled 90,500 acres, 4 percent below last year, while the average yield, at 271 cwt per acre, is down 23 cwt from last season. Drought conditions during the summer in Maine, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island reduced yields. Heavy rains late in the season drowned out fields in low lying areas for all Eastern States. A 17 percent decrease in production is expected in Maine.

William R Meyer
Director

Brad Early
Statistician

FALL POTATOES – PRODUCTION FORECAST NOVEMBER 1, 2005

States	Area Planted		Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005	2004	2005
	<u>1,000 Acres</u>				<u>Cwt</u>		<u>1,000 Cwt</u>	
WINTER 1/	18.7	20.0	18.5	19.8	260	247	4,818	4,892
SPRING 1/	76.5	65.7	72.2	64.4	314	281	22,663	18,099
SUMMER 1/	58.4	50.3	53.9	48.3	340	334	18,307	16,123
FALL								
California	7.6	7.2	7.6	7.2	480	450	3,648	3,240
Colorado	65.0	58.2	64.3	57.9	370	385	23,791	22,292
IDAHO, ALL	355.0	325.0	353.0	323.0	374	362	131,970	116,975
- 10 SW Counties	25.0	21.0	25.0	21.0	490	465	12,250	9,765
- Other Areas	330.0	304.0	328.0	302.0	365	355	119,720	107,210
Indiana 2/	3.4		3.2		350		1,120	
Maine	63.5	57.5	61.5	56.5	310	280	19,065	15,820
Massachusetts	2.6	2.5	2.5	2.4	320	260	800	624
Michigan	43.0	44.0	42.0	43.5	325	330	13,650	14,355
Minnesota	47.0	46.0	44.0	42.0	430	415	18,920	17,430
Montana	10.7	11.0	10.6	10.9	335	315	3,551	3,434
Nebraska	22.0	19.5	21.6	19.3	430	410	9,288	7,913
Nevada	6.7	5.5	6.7	5.5	430	425	2,881	2,338
New Mexico 3/	4.0	5.3	4.0	5.3	430	400	1,720	2,120
New York	20.0	20.5	19.2	20.1	270	260	5,184	5,226
North Dakota	105.0	92.0	101.0	82.0	265	250	26,765	20,500
Ohio	3.7	3.7	3.6	3.6	300	250	1,080	900
Oregon, ALL	37.0	37.3	37.0	37.1	534	584	19,775	21,652
- Malheur, Co.	5.2	3.8	5.2	3.8	470	440	2,444	1,672
- Other Areas	31.8	33.5	31.8	33.3	545	600	17,331	19,980
Pennsylvania	12.0	11.5	11.0	11.0	240	250	2,640	2,750
Rhode Island	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	290	225	145	113
Washington	160.0	154.0	159.0	154.0	590	620	93,810	95,480
Wisconsin	71.0	71.0	70.0	70.0	435	415	30,450	29,050
TOTAL FALL	1,039.7	972.2	1,022.3	951.8	401	402	410,253	382,212
UNITED STATES	1,193.3	1,108.2	1,166.9	1,084.3	391	389	456,041	421,326

1/ Estimates for current year carried forward from earlier forecast. 2/ Estimates discontinued in 2005. 3/ Summer potatoes combined with fall potatoes in 2005.